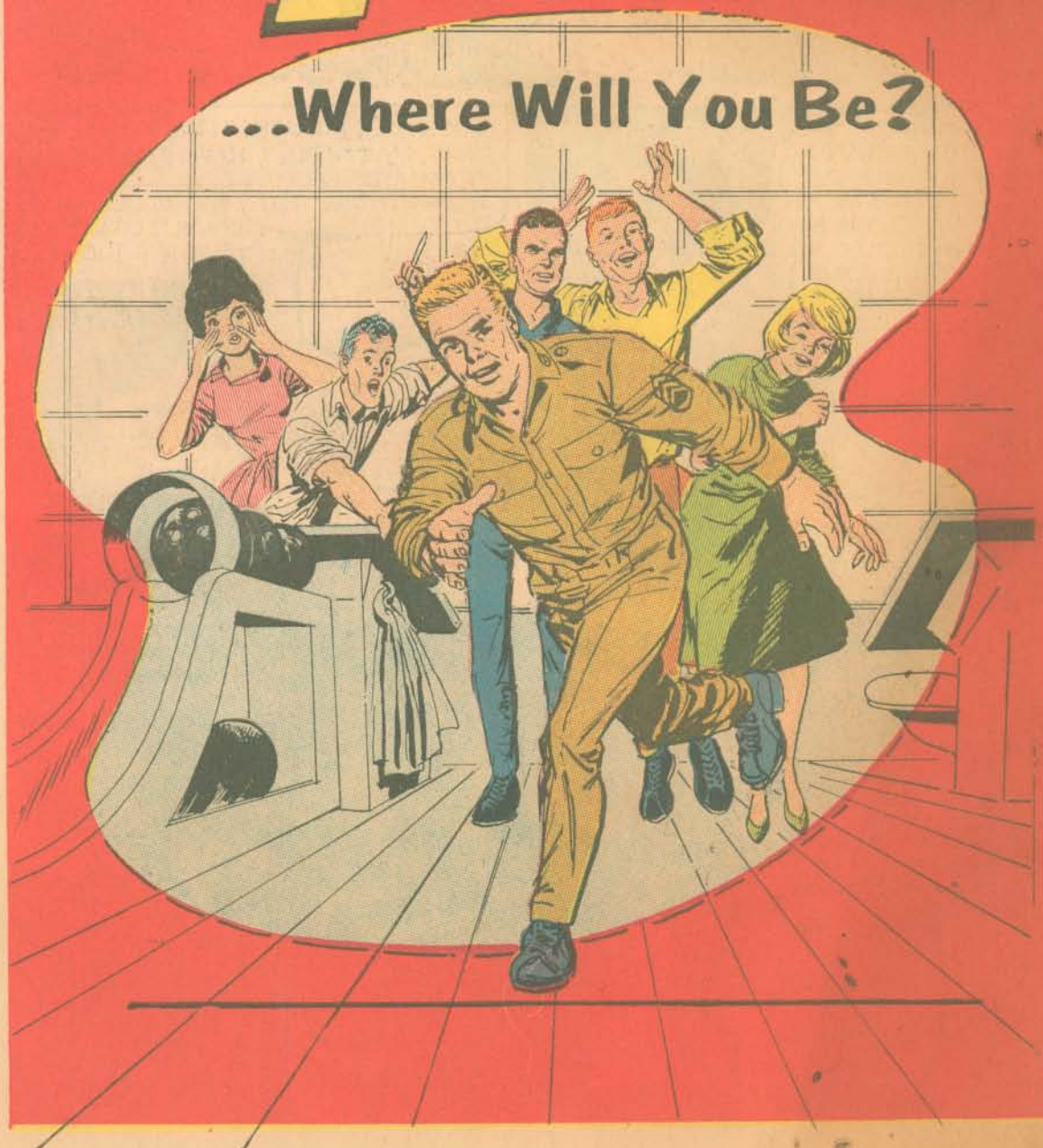
FIVE YEARS LATER...



JACK'S ABOUT DUE... HE SAID HE'D DROP THE CAR OFF FOR US AT SEVEN.
GOOD. WE'LL MAKE THE FIRST SHOW. WHAT ARE WE SEEING, BUD?
BOWLIN
WHO KNOWS? LET'S JUST CRUISE AROUND AND SEE WHAT'S ON.
THAT'S YOU, BUD! AS USUAL ...NO PLANS!
A MOVIE ISN'T IMPORTANT, BUT YOU DON'T EVEN PLAN FOR THE BIG THINGS...LIKE YOUR WHOLE FUTURE!
"MY WHOLE FUTURE?" FOR PETE'S SAKE, MARY LOU, I HAVEN'T EVEN GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL YET!
YOU WILL...IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS. WHAT THEN?
OH, I DUNNO...TAKE THAT ELECTRONICS COURSE DOWN-TOWN...OR MAYBE A JOB... OR JUST LOAF FOR A WHILE...
AND WHAT ABOUT US? ANY PLANS IN THAT DEPART-MENT?
WHY, SURE, MARY LOU. YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU... BUT LET'S SEE HOW THINGS GO.
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OH, BUD, YOU'RE FUN TO BE WITH, AND I DO LIKE YOU... BUT YOU'RE NOT HALF GROWN UP YET!
HERE YOU ARE, KIDS! THE CAR'S ALL YOURS ...UNTIL ELEVEN OCLOCK, THAT IS.
OH, I DIDN'T SEE YOU, JACK. THANKS FOR THE CAR. AND DON'T WORRY... I'LL PICK YOU UP ON TIME.

NOT HALF GROWN UP, EH? MARY LOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING THERE.

HIYA, BOY! WHERE'S THE REST OF THE GANG?
HI, BARNEY! THEY SHOULD BE HERE. I WARNED THEM NOT TO BE LATE FOR OUR "REUNION."

IMAGINE... FIVE YEARS SINCE WE WERE ALL TOGETHER! IT'S ABOUT TIME!
YEAH... SINCE MARTY DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL AFTER THE THANKSGIVING GAME. JUST LUCK I LOCATED HIM LAST WEEK.
BOWL-A-BOWL
OH, HERE THEY ARE NOW! HI, FELLOWS!

HI, BARNEY... HELLO, JACK.
HI, AGAIN. BOY, IT'S GREAT TO HAVE "THE FOUR MUSKETEERS" TOGETHER AGAIN!
THE FOUR MUSKETEERS!...

"...THE GREATEST BACKFIELD CENTRAL HIGH EVER HAD!"
LET'S TURN THE "FOUR MUSKETEERS" LOOSE AND WIN THE BALL GAME!

"PASSING, WE HAD 'EM!...
"RUSHING, WE HAD 'EM!..."
TO ME, JACK! TO ME!
HOLD YOUR HAT, MARTY, HERE WE GO!
C'MON; ENOUGH OF MEMORY LANE!
WE'LL FLIP FOR PARTNERS. CALL IT, BARNEY!
HEADS!
TAILS IT IS! I'LL SADDLE MYSELF WITH JACK FOR A PARTNER!
WELL, WE CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL!
OKAY, WE CAN USE A STRIKE RIGHT NOW!
BEE-YU-TEE-FUL!

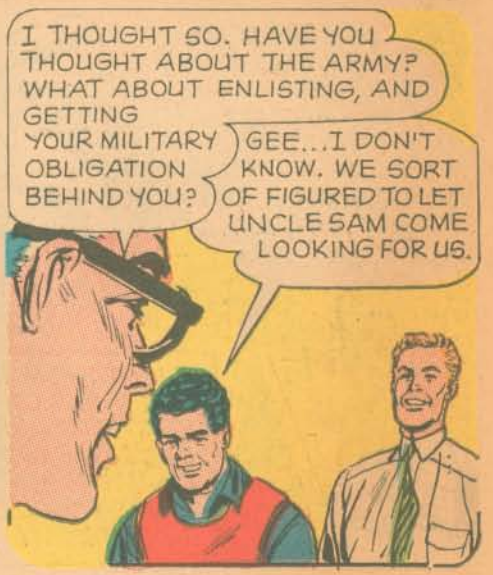
MEANWHILE...
WASN'T IT WONDERFUL THE WAY THE SECRET AGENT MADE THINGS HAPPEN! HE KNEW WHERE HE WAS GOING!
THAT FITS RIGHT IN WITH THAT "HALF GROWN UP" CRACK OF YOURS! I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT!
MAYBE I WAS TOO STRONG. I'M SORRY, BUD.
BUT I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE WAY YOU LET THINGS SLIDE. YOU COULD MAKE THINGS HAPPEN, TOO ...IF YOU'D ONLY PLAN AHEAD!
OKAY! OKAY! I'LL GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.
I SUPPOSE YOU WANT A DIAGRAM OF EVERYTHING I'M GOING TO DO UNTIL THE DAY I DIE!
OH, BUD! DON'T BE SILLY! LOOK... LET'S NOT STOP FOR A SODA TONIGHT. IT'S LATE, AND...AND I HAVE A HEADACHE.
UH...WELL, GOODNIGHT, MARY LOU. I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW.
WHY NOT HOLD OFF TILL YOU CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE? I'LL BE WAITING. GOODNIGHT, BUD...
HMM... SHE WASN'T KIDDING. I GUESS SHE'S RIGHT... IN A WAY... BUT, CRIPES! HOW CAN YOU PLAN THE FUTURE?
BY GOLLY! I'VE GOT TO HURRY AND PICK UP JACK!

AND BACK AT THE BOWLING ALLEY...
WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE TRIMMED 'EM, MARTY... THREE GAMES TO ONE!
TOUGH LUCK, YOU GUYS!
AT LEAST IT TOOK THE U.S. ARMY TO BOWL US OVER!
SEEMS TO ME THE WINNERS OUGHT TO BUY COFFEE!
OKAY WITH ME ... BUD SHOULD BE ALONG ANY MINUTE. HE CAN JOIN US.
THIS TASTES BETTER SINCE IT'S ON YOU!
LISTEN TO THE WORLD'S CHAMPION FREE-LOADER!
HERE'S BUD NOW. BOY, HE LOOKS AS THOUGH HE'D LOST HIS LAST FRIEND!
YEAH... GROWING PAINS. I THINK HE HAD A FLAP WITH HIS GIRL.
GUESS YOU HEARD MARY LOU GIVING ME A HARD TIME ABOUT NO PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. WELL, IT GOT WORSE.
Y'SEE, FELLOWS, BUD'S IN ABOUT THE SAME POSITION WE WERE FIVE YEARS AGO ... ABOUT TO GRADUATE... AND ...WHERE D'YOU GO FROM THERE?
WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE WITH OUR PLANS, JACK. AND IT WORKED OUT OKAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT THERE, BARNEY.

"I GUESS IT STARTED ONE DAY JUST AFTER BASKETBALL PRACTICE..."

IT'S A CRACK SQUAD THIS YEAR, BILL. YOU KNOW, AS GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, YOU COULD HONESTLY RECOMMEND PROFESSIONAL BALL TO A FEW OF THOSE BOYS... ESPECIALLY JACK AND BARNEY.
COULD BE, CHARLEY. SAY, THAT REMINDS ME. THOSE TWO BOYS HAVE A DATE TO SEE ME AFTER PRACTICE. DON'T LET THEM FORGET, WILL YOU?

"AND SHORTLY..."
YOU WANTED TO SEE US, MR. KELLY?
YES, IT'S TIME TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. ANY PLANS?
WE'LL BOTH BE OUT LOOKING FOR JOBS, I GUESS.


I THOUGHT SO. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE ARMY? WHAT ABOUT ENLISTING, AND GETTING YOUR MILITARY OBLIGATION BEHIND YOU?
GEE...I DON'T KNOW. WE SORT OF FIGURED TO LET UNCLE SAM COME LOOKING FOR US.

WELL, LOTS OF FELLOWS FEEL THAT WAY. BUT LOOK...
"FIRST, THE BEST JOBS--WITH THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES--REQUIRE EXPERIENCE--EITHER SCHOOL TRAINING OR ON-THE-JOB..."
I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND, SON. WE NEED A MAN WITH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO FILL THE JOB. NOW I DO HAVE AN OPENING IN THE SHIPPING ROOM. IT DOESN'T PAY MUCH, BUT--

"AND, ALTHOUGH THE ARMY TRIES TO PLACE DRAFTEES IN THE JOB THEY HAVE THE MOST APTITUDE FOR, IT MAY NOT BE THE JOB THEY WANT TO DO AS A CAREER..."

BUT, IF YOU ENLIST WITH A DIPLOMA **AND** GOOD GRADES, YOU CAN **CHOOSE** YOUR SPECIALTY--FOR MORE SATISFYING ARMY WORK--AND FOR TRAINING THAT'LL BE VALUABLE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

THAT MAKES REAL SENSE TO ME, MR. KELLY. LET'S FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS DEAL, JACK.

"WE STOPPED BY THE RECRUITING OFFICE THAT AFTERNOON. WE HAD A LOT OF QUESTIONS, AND THE RECRUITING SERGEANT HAD ALL THE ANSWERS."

THE WAY YOU DESCRIBE IT, I'M ALL FOR THAT MOTOR MAINTENANCE, SERGEANT.

I'D LIKE THAT GENERAL TECHNICAL POLICE WORK.

TAKE THIS MATERIAL HOME AND TALK IT ALL OVER WITH YOUR FAMILIES. THEN COME SEE ME AGAIN.

"BEFORE LONG, WE WERE TWO OF UNCLE SAM'S FAVORITE NEPHEWS. BASIC TRAINING WAS A LITTLE ROUGH... BUT FUN, TOO...

"JACK WAS DOING THE KIND OF WORK HE LIKED, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE...

"RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING OF SPECIALIZED TRAINING, I WAS WORKING WITH THE LATEST TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT ...

"I LOST TOUCH WITH JACK FOR A WHILE--BUT I MOVED UP TO A MORE IMPORTANT AND RESPONSIBLE JOB IN MOTOR MAINTENANCE..."

"AND THEN..."

BOYOBOY!... TOMORROW WE'RE **OUT!** IT MAY SOUND CORNY, BUT HERE'S ONE JOE WHO'LL BE GLAD TO SEE HOME AND MOTHER AGAIN!

RIGHT! BUT FOR ME IT'LL ONLY BE A VISIT. I RE-ENLISTED YESTERDAY.

"JACK'S DECISION WAS A REAL SURPRISE TO ME. BUT I DECIDED THAT WASN'T FOR ME. I WAS LUCKY AND LANDED THE FIRST JOB I WENT AFTER ...AND BOY, DID I WANT IT..."

EVERYTHING'S IN ORDER, BARNEY. AND YOUR BACKGROUND'S JUST WHAT WE NEED. WANT TO COME TO WORK ON MONDAY?

I'LL BE THERE... AND THANK YOU, SIR.

AND YOU'VE HAD THE SAME JOB EVER SINCE, RIGHT?
SAME OUTFIT.. NOT THE SAME JOB! I STARTED THERE AS A HELPER. I'M A FOREMAN NOW...AND BUCKING FOR SUPERVISOR.
YOU HAD THE BACKGROUND, BARNEY. "BULLHEAD" MARTY, HERE... I HAD TO LEARN THE HARD WAY.

"...MY GRADES WERE PRETTY MISERABLE. MATTER OF FACT, AFTER THE THANKSGIVING GAME, I BECAME INELIGIBLE..."

"I DIDN'T WANT TO WIND UP WITH THE YOUNGER KIDS, AND I FIGURED IF I GOT A JOB, THERE WERE OTHER ADVANTAGES, TOO..."

NO MORE FOOTBALL FOR YOU, MARTY. NO BASKETBALL EITHER, UNLESS YOU IMPROVE IN HISTORY AND MATH.
WELL, I MIGHT FAIL ANYWAY. MAYBE I'M BETTER OFF QUITTING SCHOOL.

"SO... I CHECKED OUT OF SCHOOL AND STARTED JOB-HUNTING. BUT, MAN..."

SORRY, SON, BUT WE'RE LOOKING FOR A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.
WHERE'S YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?
DIDN'T FINISH, EH? WELL-L-L...
THIS JOB TAKES MORE BACKGROUND THAN YOU HAVE.
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ONLY...

"FINALLY..."
MISTER, YOU JUST HIRED YOURSELF A SWEEPER.
WELL, OKAY. WE NEED A SWEEPER. BUT THE PAY AIN'T MUCH.

FACE IT, MARTY. WE BOTH GOOFED IN QUITTING SCHOOL. BUT I GOT SMART. I WENT INTO THE ARMY AND GOT MY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA... AND THE TRAINING THAT GOT ME THIS JOB.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO THAT. OH, BOY! I'VE GOT A CALL TO MAKE...RIGHT AFTER WORK!

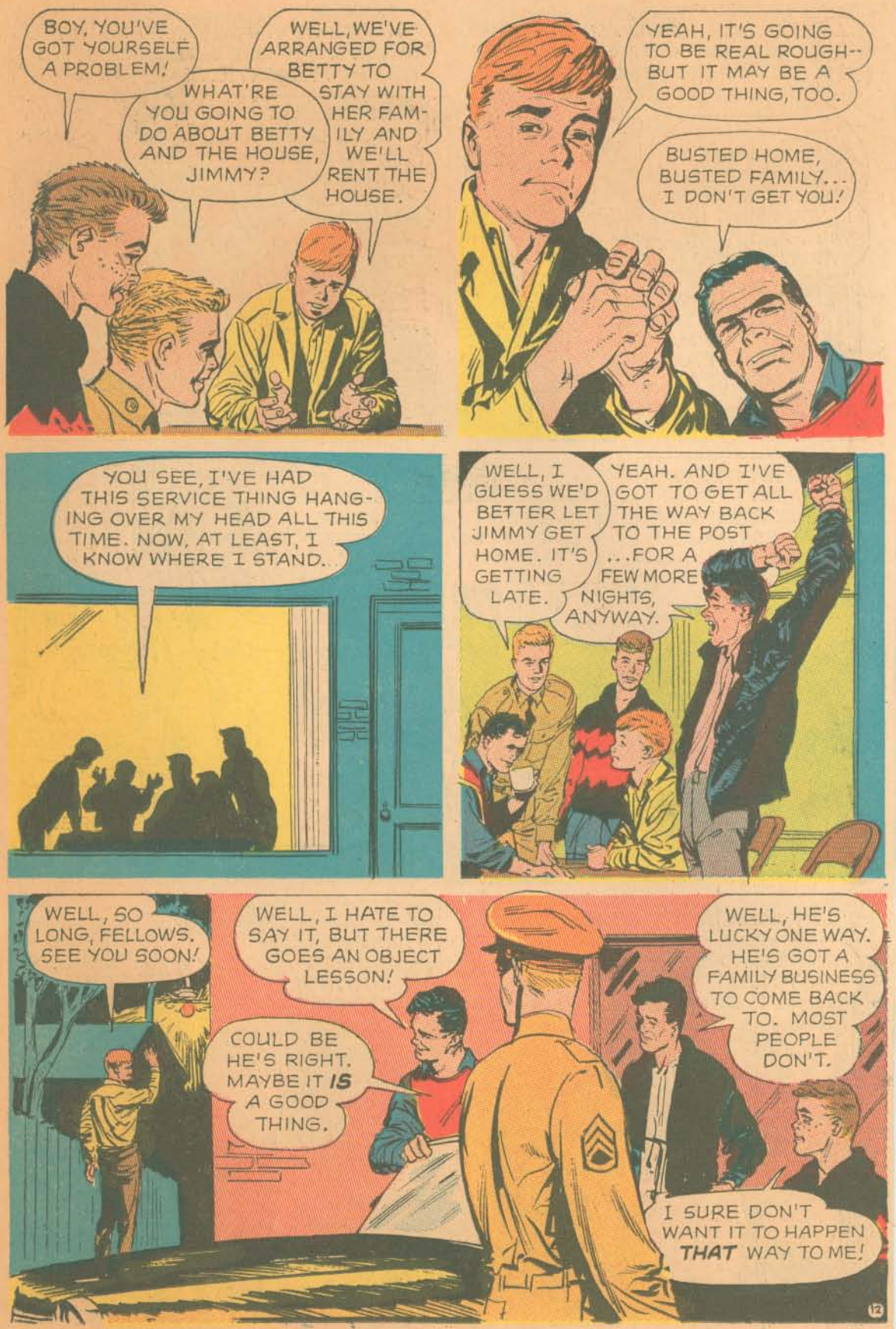
"SOON..."
CERTAINLY, SON. LOTS OF YOUNG MEN COMPLETE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE ARMY... AND GET SPECIALIZED TRAINING BESIDES.
"AND THAT WAS FOR ME!"

"MAKING UP FOR MY PAST MISTAKE WASN'T EASY. I HAD TO STUDY SCHOOLWORK AS WELL AS..."
"...KEEP RIGHT UP TO THE MARK ON ALL THE WORK IN THE REGULAR ARMY TRAINING, BUT I MADE IT!"

FACT IS, I'VE A COUPLE OF GOOD POSSIBILITIES LINED UP WHEN I'M DISCHARGED NEXT WEEK.

IT WAS TOUGH, BUT NO TOUGHER THAN I DESERVED. I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN SMART SOONER.
HOW ABOUT YOU, JIM?
GOING BUSINESS ...BEAUTIFUL BRIDE... DREAM HOUSE ...EVERYTHING LOOKED JUST GREAT!

"ACTUALLY, I HAD ALL THE BREAKS. UNCLE BUD HAD A GROWING REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE OFFICE, AND WHEN I GRADUATED..."
WELL, JIMMY, I AM EXPANDING. I NEED SOMEONE. START TOMORROW IF YOU WANT. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ARMY, JIMMY?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, UNK. THEY MAY NEVER GET AROUND TO ME.
"THINGS WENT FINE, RIGHT FROM THE START. I WAS WRITING BUSINESS AND SELLING PROPERTY..."
THE SECOND HOUSE THIS WEEK! MY LUCK IS HOLDING UP!
FOR SALE
"I HAD WANTED TO MARRY BETTY EVER SINCE SCHOOL. NOW IT WAS POSSIBLE..."
"WE SOON HAD A HOUSE OF OUR OWN...IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BANK..."
"YEP. THINGS WERE GOING JUST FINE FOR ME..."
"BUT LAST WEEK--BLOOEY!"
THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY IT, BETTY--I'M DRAFTED!
OH, NO!
THAT'S IT... NEXT WEEK I CHECK INTO THE SERVICE!
WOW! JUST WHEN THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL!
THAT'S TOUGH, LUCK, JIMMY!


BOY, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A PROBLEM!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT BETTY AND THE HOUSE, JIMMY?
WELL, WE'VE ARRANGED FOR BETTY TO STAY WITH HER FAMILY AND WE'LL RENT THE HOUSE.
YEAH, IT'S GOING TO BE REAL ROUGH--BUT IT MAY BE A GOOD THING, TOO.
BUSTED HOME, BUSTED FAMILY... I DON'T GET YOU!
YOU SEE, I'VE HAD THIS SERVICE THING HANGING OVER MY HEAD ALL THIS TIME. NOW, AT LEAST, I KNOW WHERE I STAND.
WELL, I GUESS WE'D BETTER LET JIMMY GET HOME. IT'S GETTING LATE.
YEAH. AND I'VE GOT TO GET ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE POST ...FOR A FEW MORE NIGHTS, ANYWAY.
WELL, SO LONG, FELLOWS. SEE YOU SOON!
WELL, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THERE GOES AN OBJECT LESSON!
COULD BE HE'S RIGHT. MAYBE IT IS A GOOD THING.
WELL, HE'S LUCKY ONE WAY. HE'S GOT A FAMILY BUSINESS TO COME BACK TO. MOST PEOPLE DON'T.
I SURE DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN THAT WAY TO ME!
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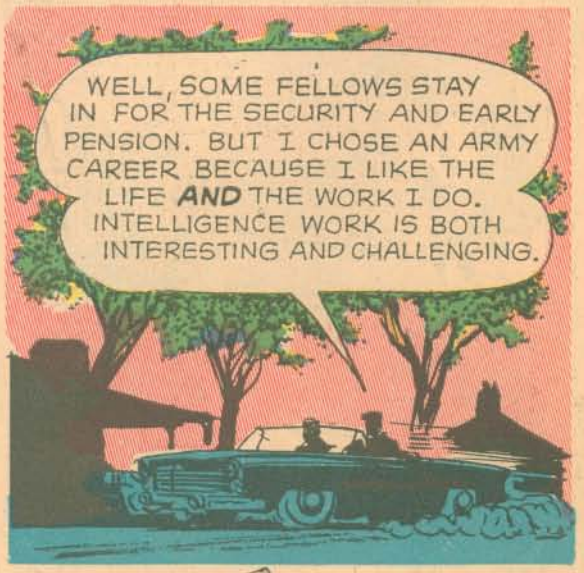
YEAH...WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO STAY IN THE ARMY, JACK?
YOU SEE, BUD, EVERY YOUNG FELLOW HAS TO FACE MILITARY SERVICE. I DON'T THINK IT'S HURT ANY-ONE I KNOW...AND IT'S HELPED A LOT. BUT IT TAKES PLANNING!


WELL, SOME FELLOWS STAY IN FOR THE SECURITY AND EARLY PENSION. BUT I CHOSE AN ARMY CAREER BECAUSE I LIKE THE LIFE AND THE WORK I DO. INTELLIGENCE WORK IS BOTH INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING.

AND...ALONG THAT LINE... I'VE PUT IN FOR OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL! I'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE OF MAK-ING IT!
OH, THAT REMINDS ME. THIS LETTER CAME FOR YOU. I FORGOT IT TILL NOW.

THIS IS IT, BUDDY-BOY! I MADE IT! OCS, HERE I COME!
THAT'S GREAT, JACK!

Y'KNOW, JACK...MARY LOU'S RIGHT! SO ARE YOU! LIFE DOES TAKE PLANNING. AND, BY GOLLY, I BELIEVE I'VE JUST MADE MY PLANS!

LATER...
BUT, BUD, ARE YOU SURE IT'S WHAT YOU WANT?
SURE, I'M SURE, MOM! LIKE... WELL, EVERYBODY SAYS... YOU'VE GOT TO PLAN AHEAD. THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.

WELL, JACK DID IT, AND IT CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED OUT FOR HIM.
THAT'S TRUE, JOHN. AND I SUPPOSE...

GEE, THANKS, FOLKS! YOU'RE GREAT! NOW I'M OFF TO SEE MR. KELLY. HE'S GOT ALL THE DOPE!
ALL RIGHT. TAKE OFF. AND GOOD LUCK, SON.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BUD.

IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU, MR. KELLY.
COME IN, BUD...COME IN! IF I DON'T HAVE THE TIME, WE'LL MAKE IT. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

AND SOON..
...SO YOU SEE, MR. KELLY, I THOUGHT I'D DO THE SAME THING JACK DID... ENLIST NOW.
I THINK YOU'RE WISE, BUD. ACCORDING TO YOUR CHART HERE, I BELIEVE YOU'D DO BEST CHOOSING ELECTRONICS FOR YOUR ARMY TRAINING... YOUR APTITUDE'S THERE.

WELL, I SURE LIKE ELECTRONICS. BUT, DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
YES, IF YOU SIGN UP FOR "CONDITIONAL ENLISTMENT" BEFORE GRADUATION... AND THEN GRADUATE WITH GOOD GRADES... YOU ARE ASSURED OF GETTING THE KIND OF ARMY TRAINING YOU SELECT. YOU SEE...

THE ARMY TRAINING PROGRAM HAS BEEN SET UP TO WORK TWO WAYS. FIRST, THEY TRAIN YOU TO DO A SPECIFIC ARMY JOB. SECOND, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, YOU GET FIRST CLASS TRAINING IN SKILLS FOR YOUR FUTURE-- THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
1. COMBAT
2. ELECTRONICS
3. ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE
4. PRECISION MAINTENANCE
5. MILITARY CRAFTS
6. MOTOR MAINTENANCE
7. CLERICAL
8. GRAPHICS
9. GENERAL TECHNICAL
10. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

"IN THE TEN CLASSIFICATIONS, THERE IS TRAINING IN A LARGE VARIETY OF SKILLS YOU WOULD FIND USEFUL LATER ON...

"MILITARY CRAFTS TRAIN MEN IN THESE LINES...

Steel Construction
Carpentering
Masonry
Pipeline Construction
Plumbing
Refrigeration
Utilities Maintenance
Fire Department
Exterminating
Water Supply

"CLERICAL PROVIDES SOLID BACKGROUND IN...

Stenography
Accounting
Bookkeeping
Statistics
Warehouse Management
Traffic Control
Tabulation
Data Typing
Card Punching

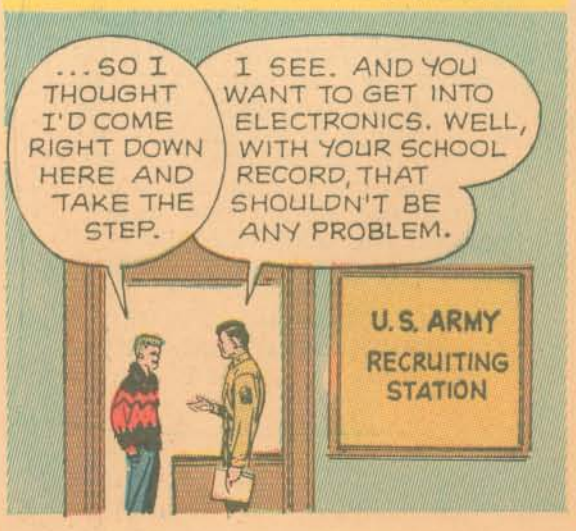
"GENERAL TECHNICAL COVERS...

Police Department
Crime Detection
Plant Security
Meteorology
Practical Nursing
Psychiatric Assistance
Social Work
Vocational Training
Physio-Therapy

"...AND MOTOR MAINTENANCE..."

Automotive Repair
Crane Shovel Operation
Surfacing Machine Operation
Diesel-Electric Locomotive Repair
Truckmaster
Fuel & Electric Systems Repair
Trainman
Aircraft Instrument Repair

JUST A SHORT WHILE LATER...


...SO I THOUGHT I'D COME RIGHT DOWN HERE AND TAKE THE STEP.
I SEE. AND YOU WANT TO GET INTO ELECTRONICS. WELL, WITH YOUR SCHOOL RECORD, THAT SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEM.
U.S. ARMY RECRUITING STATION

SINCE YOU'RE STILL UNDER AGE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO OVER THESE FORMS WITH YOUR PARENTS. BUT YOU TELL ME THEY'VE ALREADY AGREED.
RIGHT! I'M ON MY WAY. BUT I'VE ONE STOP TO MAKE FIRST!

I'VE GOT THE FUTURE TAPED OUT. WELL, PART OF IT, ANYWAY. I'M ENLISTING IN THE ARMY AS SOON AS I GRADUATE.
OH, BUD! ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING AHEAD AT LAST?

"THAT I AM, BABY. WHY, MEN WITH ARMY TRAINING ARE QUALIFIED FOR..
"GOING INTO A BUSINESS OF THEIR OWN...
"WORK IN A WIDE VARIETY OF INDUSTRIES...
"SPECIALIZED CAREERS IN THE ARMY ITSELF...
"AND I HAVE SOME MIDDLE-AISLE PLANS FOR US, TOO..."

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